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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 28th, 31st and 32nd meetings, on 12, 24 and 30 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28, 31 and 32).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.27 and A/C.2/65/L.58

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/65/L.27), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 60/196 of

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22 December 2005, 61/198 of 20 December 2006, 61/200 of 20 December 2006, 62/192 of 19 December 2007, 63/216 of 19 December 2008, 63/217 of 19 December 2008 and 64/200 of 21 December 2009; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Reaffirming* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Reaffirming also* the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"*Reaffirming* the role of the Hyogo Framework for Action in providing policy guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Taking note* of the 'Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction' launched in Manama, Bahrain in May 2009,

"*Recognizing* that 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as well as the midpoint of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

"*Expressing its deep concern also* at the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of Member States and the United Nations system as a result of the combined impacts of current global challenges, including the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and the food crisis,

"*Recognizing* the clear relationship between sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to continue to deploy efforts in all these areas,

"*Recognizing also* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to appropriate, advanced, environmentally sound, cost-effective and easy-to-use

technologies so as to seek more comprehensive solutions to disaster risk reduction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen their capabilities to cope with disaster risks,

"*Recognizing further* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen local authorities and community capabilities to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

"*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, the underlying risk factors, as identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action, including socio-economic factors, that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, to build and further strengthen the capacity at all levels to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters, while also recognizing the negative impact of disasters on economic growth and sustainable development, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries,

"*Recognizing also* the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction management, with a view to reducing vulnerability,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heatwaves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

"*Taking into account also* that geological and hydrometeorological hazards and their associated natural disasters and their reduction must be addressed in a coherent and effective manner,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic, environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change, in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations,

"*Noting* that disaster risk is an increasing problem in urban areas, where risk, population and economic assets are concentrated,

"*Noting also* that reaching the most vulnerable and poorest communities remains a major challenge in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework Plan for Action; while much progress has been made at the policy level globally, regionally and nationally, its benefits have yet to be felt locally,

"*Stressing* that the impacts of natural disasters are severely hampering efforts in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizing the importance of reducing vulnerabilities to natural disasters,

"*Noting* that the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat has made considerable efforts in strengthening its management practices as well as in reviewing its financing methods,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 63/217;

"2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming, for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the regional, national and local levels to build resilience to hazards, and for systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes and long-term development plans, as a means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, ifiternational financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance in this regard of the continued cooperation and coordination of stakeholders at all levels with respect to addressing effectively the impact of natural disasters;

"4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites international financial institutions and regional and international organizations, to integrate the goals of, and take into full account, the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms, and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

"5. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

"6. *Also recognizes* that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazards, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action can have multiplier effects and accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

"7. *Further recognizes* the importance of coordinating adaptation to climate change with relevant disaster risk reduction measures, invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate these considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes and, in least developed countries, national adaptation programmes of action, and invites the international

community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;

"8. *Welcomes* the national, regional and subregional initiatives undertaken by developing countries in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools, and requests United Nations regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, in close coordination with implementing entities of the United Nations system;

"9. *Encourages* the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the Strategy system managed by the World Bank, to continue to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

"10. *Welcomes* the upcoming third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, which serves as an important forum for Member States and other stakeholders to assess progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practices;

"11. *Calls upon* the international community to support active participation of developing countries in the Strategy system, the midterm review process of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

"12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to make every effort to accelerate the full integration and mainstreaming of risk reduction into all its programmes and activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action as well as to the Millennium Development Goals;

"13. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

"14. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy;

"15. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction and the growing demands on the secretariat of the Strategy and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide from the biennial programme budget as from the biennium 2012-2013 the necessary support to ensure predictable and stable financial resources for the operation of the secretariat of the Strategy;

"16. *Also acknowledges* the importance of early warning systems, encourages Member States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and encourages all stakeholders to

share good practices on early warning, using existing information-sharing mechanisms within the Strategy system;

"17. *Emphasizes* the need to develop an international early warning system for natural disaster prevention, in order to reduce economic and social damages, including the loss of human lives; in this regard, calls upon the international community to contribute with technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building for achieving this objective based on the framework of existing mechanisms contained in the Hyogo Framework for Action;

"18. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches;

"19. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing and adapting long-term programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

"20. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through development cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, including least developed countries and in Africa, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including the Hyogo Framework for Action, and encourages the institutional arrangement for the Strategy to continue its work in this regard;

"21. *Stresses* the importance of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action and the priorities for action that States, regional and international organizations and international financial institutions as well as other concerned actors should take into consideration in their approach to disaster risk reduction and implement, as appropriate, according to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of promoting a culture of prevention in the area of natural disasters, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, and of addressing disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness at the community level, and the adverse effects of natural disasters on efforts to implement national development plans and poverty reduction strategies with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"22. *Acknowledges* that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazard, including geological and hydrometeorological hazards, in developing countries, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action,

can promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; reducing vulnerabilities to these hazards is therefore a high priority for developing countries;

"23. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and the increasing challenges posed by the consequences of natural disasters, as well as the impact of climate change, which impede progress towards sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, especially small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, as well as other particularly vulnerable countries;

"24. *Stresses* the need to strengthen political resolve in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction as a practice in the policies and programmes of the humanitarian and environmental sectors, planning ministries and financial institutions;

"25. *Also stresses* that, in order to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, risk assessments should be integrated into disaster risk reduction programmes at national and local levels;

"26. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

"27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launching of the Making Cities Resilient campaign 2010-2011 'My city is getting ready' to increase the resilience of cities and urban areas, by raising the awareness of citizens and local governments of risk reduction options and by mobilizing political commitment and support among local governments to include risk reduction aspects in urban development planning and critical infrastructure investments;

"28. *Welcomes* the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to be held in New York on 9 February 2011;

"29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the sub-item entitled 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/65/L.58), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.27.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.58.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/65/SR.32).

6. Also at its 32nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.58, as orally corrected (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.34 and A/C.2/65/L.54

8. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/65/L.34), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006 and 63/215 of 19 December 2008 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

"*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Noting* that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventative actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

"*Acknowledging* that the International Research Centre on El Niño has developed into a reference centre on climate services and climate-related disaster-risk reduction,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular annex III of the report, entitled 'International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon', and calls upon the international

community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

"2. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction that led to the establishment of the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them to continue to support the advancement of the Centre;

"3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and efforts to enhance regional and international recognition and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and Government authorities for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

"4. *Notes* the contribution that the International Research Centre on El Niño has made in the area of climate research, supporting applied studies with data collection and contributing to the periodic El Niño/La Niña Updates coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization;

"5. *Also notes* among the innovations of the International Research Centre on El Niño a new climate database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries located on the western coast of South America, and encourages the sharing of best practices with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

"6. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization to producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, particularly its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

"7. *Encourages* in this regard the World Meteorological Organization to continue to strengthen the collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

"8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to further strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

"9. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include a section on the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction."

9. At its 31st meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/65/L.54), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.34.

10. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.54.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.54 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.34 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 and 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 and 60/196 of 22 December 2005, 61/198 and 61/200 of 20 December 2006, 62/192 of 19 December 2007, 63/216 and 63/217 of 19 December 2008 and 64/200 of 21 December 2009; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Reaffirming also the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[6]

Reaffirming the role of the Hyogo Framework for Action in providing policy guidance on the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Taking note of the "Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction" launched in Manama in May 2009,[7]

Recognizing that 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as well as the midpoint of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] See resolution 65/1.

[7] Available from www.unisdr.org.

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern also at the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of Member States and the United Nations system as a result of the combined impacts of current global challenges, including the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and the food crisis,

Recognizing the clear relationship between sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to continue to deploy efforts in all these areas,

Recognizing also the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to appropriate, advanced, environmentally sound, cost-effective and easy-to-use technologies so as to seek more comprehensive solutions to disaster risk reduction and to effectively and efficiently strengthen their capabilities to cope with disaster risks,

Recognizing further the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen local authorities and community capabilities to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, the underlying risk factors, as identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action, including socio-economic factors, that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, to build and further strengthen the capacity at all levels to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters, while also recognizing the negative impact of disasters on economic growth and sustainable development, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries,

Recognizing also the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction management, with a view to reducing vulnerability,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

Taking into account also that geological and hydrometeorological hazards and vulnerabilities and resilience to their associated natural disasters and their reduction must be addressed in a coherent and effective manner,

Bearing in mind the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic and environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and

climate change, in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations,

Noting that disaster risk is an increasing problem in urban areas where risk, population and economic assets are concentrated,

Noting also that reaching the most vulnerable and poor communities remains a major challenge in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and that, while much progress has been made at the policy level globally, regionally and nationally, the benefits of this are yet to be felt locally,

Stressing that the impacts of natural disasters are severely hampering efforts in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizing the importance of reducing vulnerabilities to natural disasters,

Taking note with appreciation of the important role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, according to the mandate, in strengthening the Strategy system, enhancing the system-wide high-level leadership, and coordinating disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolutions 63/217 and 64/200;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming, for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the regional, national and local levels to build resilience to hazards, and for systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes and long-term development plans, as a means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance in this regard of the continued cooperation and coordination of stakeholders at all levels with respect to addressing effectively the impact of natural disasters;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites international financial institutions and regional and international organizations, to integrate the goals of, and take into full account, the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms, and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design and implement, as appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

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[8] A/64/280 and A/65/388.

5. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

6. *Further recognizes* the importance of coordinating adaptation to climate change with relevant disaster risk reduction measures, invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate these considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes and, in the least developed countries, into the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, and invites the international community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;

7. *Welcomes* the national, regional and subregional initiatives undertaken by Member States, in particular by developing countries, to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities or regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools, and requests the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, in close coordination with implementing entities of the United Nations system;

8. *Encourages* the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the Strategy system managed by the World Bank, to continue to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

9. *Welcomes* the upcoming third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, which serves as an important forum for Member States and other stakeholders to assess progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practices;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective and empowering and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, as well as in risk reduction strategies and programmes, and encourages the secretariat of the Strategy to continue to increase the promotion of gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women;

11. *Encourages* the international community to support the active participation of developing countries in the Strategy system, the midterm review process and the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to make every effort to accelerate the full integration and mainstreaming of risk reduction into all its programmes and activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action as well as to the Millennium Development Goals;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

14. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy;

15. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction, the growing demands on the secretariat of the Strategy and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to consider how best to support the implementation of the natural disaster reduction strategy, taking into account the important role played by the secretariat of the Strategy, with a view to ensuring adequate resources for the operation of the secretariat of the Strategy;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction, at the local, national and regional levels, in order to reduce economic and social damages, including the loss of human lives, and in this regard encourages Member States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and also encourages donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation for supporting such initiatives, as appropriate, through technical assistance, technology transfer by mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and training programmes;

17. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches;

18. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing and adapting long-term programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

19. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through development cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, including the least developed countries and in Africa, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, and encourages the institutional arrangement for the Strategy to continue its work in this regard;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action and the priorities for action that States, regional and international organizations and international financial institutions as well as other concerned actors, in their approach to disaster risk reduction, should take into consideration and implement, as appropriate, according to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of promoting a culture of

prevention in the area of natural disasters, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, and of addressing disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness at the community level, and the adverse effects of natural disasters on efforts to implement national development plans and poverty reduction strategies with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Acknowledges* that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazard, including geological and hydrometeorological hazards, in developing countries, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action, can promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and that reducing vulnerabilities to these hazards is therefore a high priority for developing countries;

22. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and the increasing challenges posed by the consequences of natural disasters, as well as the impact of climate change, which impede progress towards sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, especially small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, as well as other particularly vulnerable countries;

23. *Stresses* the need to strengthen mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national development strategies, and as a practice in the policies and programmes of the humanitarian and environmental sectors, planning ministries and financial institutions and other relevant bodies;

24. *Stresses* that, in order to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, risk assessments should be integrated into disaster risk reduction programmes at the national and local levels;

25. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launching of the Making Cities Resilient campaign 2010-2011 "My city is getting ready" to increase the resilience of cities and urban areas, by raising the awareness of citizens and local governments of risk reduction options and by mobilizing political commitment and support among local governments to include risk reduction aspects in urban development planning and critical infrastructure investments;

27. *Welcomes* the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on disaster risk reduction to be held in New York on 9 February 2011;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, including his recommendations on the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action, on the implementation of the present resolution, under the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution II
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006 and 63/215 of 19 December 2008 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventative actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[5] in particular annex III to the report, entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon", and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

2. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Government of Ecuador, the Government of Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue those contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] A/65/388.

3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and efforts to enhance regional and international recognition and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and government authorities for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Notes* the contribution of the International Research Centre on El Niño as a reference centre on climate services and climate-related disaster risk reduction, as well as in the area of climate research, including through the development of a new climatic database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries, and encourages the sharing of best practices with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

5. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

6. *Encourages*, in this regard, the World Meteorological Organization to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to further strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

8. *Underlines* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include a section on the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.